

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously presented) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 21, wherein the contents of Ni and Al are respectively 77 to 95% and 5 to 23% with respect to the total element composition in wt%.

Claims 3-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Previously presented) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 23, wherein the metal fine particles are fine particles of at least one of the metals of Ni and Ni₃Al.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Previously presented) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 21, wherein the methanol or the liquid mixture of methanol and water is brought into contact with the catalyst that is previously subjected to a hydrogen reduction treatment.

Claims 10-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Previously presented) A methanol-reforming method which comprises producing hydrogen by bringing methanol or a liquid mixture of methanol and water into contact with a catalyst comprising an intermetallic compound Ni₃Al, characterized by being a powder or granule prepared by machining and mechanically polishing a melt-prepared ingot or in an atomization process.

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Previously presented) A methanol-reforming method which comprises producing hydrogen by bringing methanol or a liquid mixture of methanol and water into contact with a catalyst comprising an intermetallic compound Ni_3Al , wherein carbon nanofibers containing metal fine particles are deposited on a surface of the Ni_3Al .

Claims 24-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Previously presented) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 23, wherein the contents of Ni and Al are respectively 77 to 95% and 5 to 23% with respect to the total element composition in wt%.

Claim 27 (Previously presented) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 23, wherein the methanol or the liquid mixture of methanol and water is brought into contact with the catalyst that is previously subjected to a hydrogen reduction treatment.

Claim 28 (New) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 21, wherein the methanol or the liquid mixture of methanol and water is brought into contact with the catalyst that is previously alkali or acid treated.

Claim 29 (New) The methanol-reforming method according to Claim 23, wherein the methanol or the liquid mixture of methanol and water is brought into contact with the catalyst that is previously alkali or acid treated.